

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 1 through 45 and Claims 52-56. Claims 46 through 51 remain pending:

Claims 1 - 45 and Claims 52-56 (Cancelled).

- 1 46. (Original) A contoured crown piece for use in a headstall of a
- 2 bridle, a halter, a cavaeson or in the crown piece of a snaffle piece, the
- 3 contoured crown piece comprising: a first end, an opposite second end, and
- 4 an intermediate portion between the first end and the second end; the
- 5 intermediate portion having a contoured portion, the contoured portion
- 6 having
- 7 a width,
- 8 a length,
- 9 a pair of opposed sides across the width, and
- 10 a pair of opposed curved sides across the length; each side of the
- 11 pair of opposed curved sides having a first concave portion continuous with
- 12 a convex portion continuous with a second concave portion; wherein the
- 13 first concave portion of each side of the pair of curved sides is aligned to
- 14 form a first narrow portion; wherein the convex portion of each side of the
- 15 pair of curved sides is aligned to form a broad portion; wherein the second
- 16 concave portion of each side of the pair of curved sides is aligned to form a
- 17 second narrow portion; and

18 wherein one of the pair of opposed sides across the width is attached to, or
19 extends from the first end and the other of the pair of opposed sides across
20 the width is attached to, or extends from the second end.

1 47. (Original) The contoured crown piece as defined in Claim 46,
2 wherein, the length of the contoured portion of the crown piece is sufficient
3 to fit around and behind a horse's ears in a hollow formed by a horse's skull.

1 48. (Original) The contoured crown piece as defined in Claim 46,
2 wherein, the width of the broad portion of the contoured portion of the
3 contoured crown piece provides a broad load-bearing surface across a
4 horse's poll.

1 49. (Original) The contoured crown piece as defined in Claim 46, the
2 contoured portion having a resilient portion constructed of a resilient
3 material and wherein the resilient portion extends from 1% to 100% of the
4 length of the contoured portion.

1 50. (Original) The contoured crown piece as defined in Claim 49,
2 wherein the resilient material is a woven elastic material.

1 51. (Original) The contoured crown piece as defined in Claim 49,
2 wherein the resilient material is an elastic material.